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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE




Wadebridge Rural District  
Council

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

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## TO THE WADEBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1945.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—88,064.

Population—13,640.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1945 according to the rate books—5,170.

Rateable value—£63,390.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£268-17-0.

### Social Conditions

The district is an agricultural one, the climate making it especially suitable for dairying and cattle rearing but under present conditions more land is under the plough than in normal times.

The china clay industry is in a flourishing condition, the demand being in excess of the supply, and the difficulty is increased by a shortage of labour.

Most of the evacuees have left the district and the two hostels have been closed as redundant.

## Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

	M.	F.	Total
<b>Live Births</b>	104	114	218
Legitimate	96	101	197
Illegitimate	8	13	21

**Birth rate** per 1,000 of the population - 15·9

	M.	F.	Total
<b>Still births—</b>	5	3	8
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	1	0	1

**Rate** per 1000 of the population—0·5

	M.	F.	Total
<b>Deaths --</b>	86	106	192

**Death-rate** per 1,000 of the population—14·0.

### Deaths of Infants under one year of age—

	M.	F.	Total
	5	4	9
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0

**Death rate** per 1,000 live births—41·2

The chief causes of death were premature birth and congenital debility.

<b>Deaths</b> from Puerpural Sepsis	...	0
Other Maternal Causes	...	1

There were no deaths from Whooping Cough or Measles, or of children under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea.



The chief causes of death were—

	M.	F.	Total
Cancer ...	14	19	33
Heart disease ...	23	24	47
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	10	19	29
Bronchitis ...	3	1	4
Pneumonia ...	5	2	7
Nephritis ...	1	3	4

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those of England and Wales :—

		England and Wales.
Birth rate ...	15·9	16·1
Death rate ...	14·0	11·4
Infantile death rate	41·2	46

### **General provision of Health Services.**

Medical Officer of Health—J. H. Hobling, (part time Officer) who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bodmin, Examining Factory Surgeon and Public Vaccinator.

### **Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyors.**

Western Area—J. D. Clerk.

Eastern Area—A. E. Bewes.

These are both full time Officers and hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

There is a St. John's Motor Ambulance in Bodmin available for accidents and cases of non-infectious illness.

Steps are being taken to obtain a Motor Ambulance to be stationed in Wadebridge.

### **Nursing in the Home.**

Trained Nurses supplied by the County Nursing Association are available for the whole of the District.

### **Hospitals.**

There is no Hospital in the District.

Patients requiring hospital treatment are sent to the East Cornwall and Bodmin Hospital, the Royal Infirmary, Truro, or the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth.

Infectious cases are treated in the County Isolation Hospital, Truro.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

There is a Child Welfare Centre situated in Wadebridge.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The existing works have been maintained in good order but no new work has been undertaken.

## **Water Supply.**

The Town of Wadebridge has its own satisfactory supply.

The Western area is supplied by the North Cornwall Water Board. The supply has proved inadequate for the needs of the district but it is hoped to improve matters as soon as labour and materials are available.

The Eastern area is dependent on wells and springs and is very unsatisfactory owing to the wells and springs running dry especially in the summer months when there is a large influx of visitors in addition to the normal population. The DeLank water scheme would supply this area in addition to other places if it came into operation.

## **Public Cleansing.**

Household refuse is collected regularly and dealt with by controlled tipping.

## **Housing.**

No new houses are being built but plans are ready as soon as labour and materials are available to start building.



## Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious cases are treated in the County Isolation Hospital, Truro.

Measles was prevalent over the district most of the cases occurring in the months April to July.

The Scarlet Fever cases were generally mild and scattered over the district.

There was no closure of schools on account of infectious diseases.

### Diphtheria Immunization.

There were no cases of Diphtheria.

Children up to 15 years of age are immunized free a fee of 2/6 for each injection being paid for each injection

### Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Cases notified.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	16	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Measles	84	0
Pneumonia	7	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0

## Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during the year—

Age period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
25	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
35	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total—	5	4	0	0	0	2	0	2

No action was taken under the Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.



